

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 27, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 27, 2003. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended to correct matters of form. Support for the amendment to claim 25 is found in the original specification, page 5, lines 15-17 and page 8, lines 20-27. Claims 5-12 and 14-18 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 26-42 have been added. No new matter has been added. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application and the new claims added for reasons discussed below.

Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment that Sheet 1 of PTO Form 1449 (paper number 5), which was submitted by Applicant on February 21, 2002, was considered by the Examiner.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner states that the tubing having openings after expansion must be shown. Applicant traverses this objection to the drawings. Support for the openings in the tubing specified in the claims is found in the original specification at page 2, line 17 to page 3, line 18; page 8, lines 7-14; and page 8, line 28 to page 9, line 6. Tubing with openings, or slotted tubing, is well known to those skilled in the art. The expandable tubing depicted in Figure 1-9 is simply replaced with slotted tubing in claim 3. Therefore, Applicant submits that corrected drawings are unnecessary to depict this feature of the invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the objection to the drawings.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 19, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Heijnen* (U.S. Patent Number 6,460,615 B1). The Examiner states that *Heijnen* discloses a body adapted for rotation within the tubing to be expanded, a radially movable expansion member, sleeves supported by the expansion member by means, and sleeves offset from the body when the expansion member is actuated. The Examiner further states regarding claim 22 that the expander is located within the tubing to be expanded, and the expansion member is radially expanded to urge sleeves into contact with the tubing. The Examiner then states that the device is rotated during expansion. Claims 3 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

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unpatentable over *Heijnen*. Claims 5-18 and 20 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 25 has not been considered on the merits.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-4, 13, and 19-21. The Examiner uses the numeral 40 of Figure 1 in *Heijnen* to designate the body adapted for rotation within the tubing to be expanded. *Heijnen* refers to the numeral 40 of Figure 1 as a front end part. The front end part is not rotated within the tubing to be expanded. Therefore, *Heijnen* does not teach, show, or suggest a body adapted for rotation within tubing to be expanded, as recited in claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4, 13, and 19-21. Furthermore, *Heijnen* does not teach, show, or suggest a sleeve being adapted to be offset from the body when the expansion member is actuated to provide rolling contact with an inner surface of tubing to be expanded as the body is rotated within the tubing, as recited in claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4, 13, and 19-21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-4, 13, and 19-21.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 22-24. The Examiner again designates numeral 40 of Figure 1 in *Heijnen* as the body. As stated above, *Heijnen* does not disclose rotating the front end within the tubing to be expanded. Therefore, *Heijnen* does not teach, show, or suggest providing a tubing expander comprising a body and rotating the expander such that the sleeve is rolled around the internal surface of the tubing section and expands the tubing section to a larger second diameter, as stated in claim 22 and its dependent claims 23-25. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 22-24. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests the examination and allowance of claim 25.

The Examiner states that claims 5-18 and 20 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. New claims 30-37 are old claims 5-12, rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. New claims 38-40 are old claims 14-16, rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. New claims 41-42 are old claims 17-18, rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of

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the base claim and intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 30-42.

Applicant has added new claims 26-27. *Heijnen* does not teach, show, or suggest a tubing expander comprising a sleeve adapted to be offset eccentrically from the body when the expansion member is actuated to provide a rolling contact with an inner surface of the tubing to be expanded as the body is rotated within the tubing, as recited in claim 26. Moreover, *Heijnen* does not teach, show, or suggest a method comprising radially extending the expansion member to eccentrically offset the sleeve from the body and urge a portion of the sleeve into contact with an internal surface of the tubing section, as recited in claim 27. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 26-27.

Applicant has added new claim 28. *Heijnen* does not teach, show, or suggest a tubing expander wherein the at least two radially movable expansion members and the at least two sleeves are axially separated from each other along a longitudinal length of the body, as recited in claim 28. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 28.

Applicant has added new claim 29. *Heijnen* does not teach, show, or suggest a method of expanding tubing comprising providing a tubing expander comprising a body carrying at least two radially movable expansion members and at least two sleeves mounted about the body along its length and being radially supported by the at least two expansion members and radially extending the at least two expansion members to offset the at least two sleeves from the body and to urge portions of the at least two sleeves into contact with an internal surface of the tubing section, as recited in claim 29. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 29.

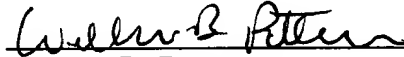
In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the method or apparatus of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary

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references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A tubing expander comprising:
 - a body adapted for rotation within tubing to be expanded;
 - at least one radially movable expansion member mounted on the body; and
 - a sleeve mounted about the body and being radially supported by the expansion member, the sleeve being adapted to be offset from the body when the expansion member is actuated to provide a rolling contact with an inner surface of the tubing to be expanded as the body is rotated within the tubing.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 22, comprising stabilising the tubing section on the expander by locating a leading end of the stabiliser in the unexpanded tubing section.